

## CLAIMS

A complete claim listing of all currently pending claims is provided below, for the benefit of the Examiner.

1.-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) A method for aligning an instruction stream, the method comprising:

inputting an instruction stream into a second shifter, the instruction stream being obtained exclusively from a first shifter;

determining in a length decoder and in a first clock cycle, a length of a current instruction in the instruction stream;

if a successive instruction in the instruction stream is contained in the second shifter then shifting the instruction stream to a start of the successive instruction based exclusively on the length of the current instruction, said shifting being performed during the first clock cycle and within the second shifter; and

if the successive instruction is not contained in the second shifter then shifting the successive instruction into the second shifter from the first shifter in the same clock cycle and shifting the instruction stream to the start of the successive instruction one clock cycle later.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the second shifter is connected to the length decoder via a latch.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the first shifter is able to shift 8 bytes of data.

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